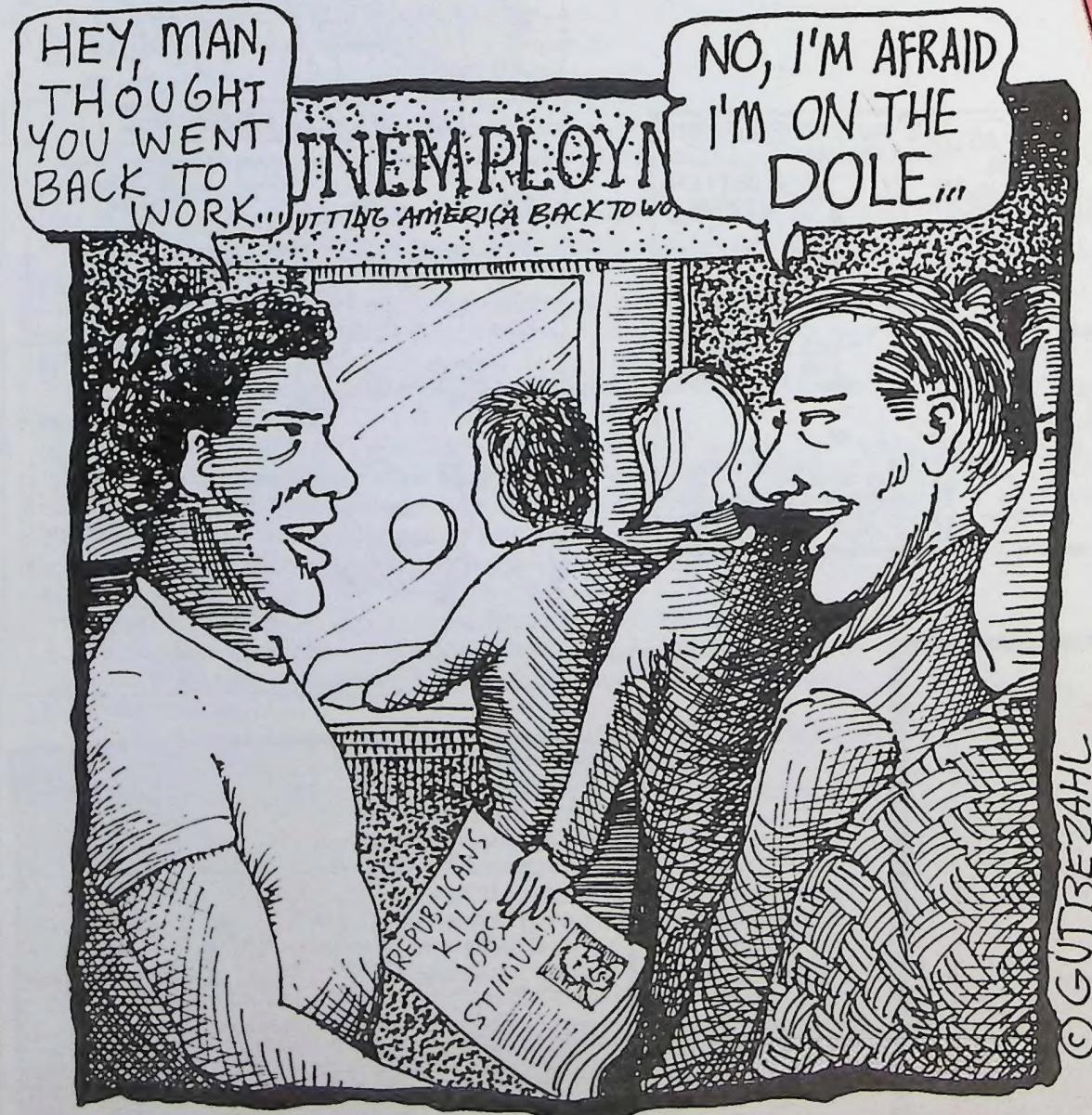


EPISODE #89
June 3, 1993

The Valley 66 COMIC N • E • W • S



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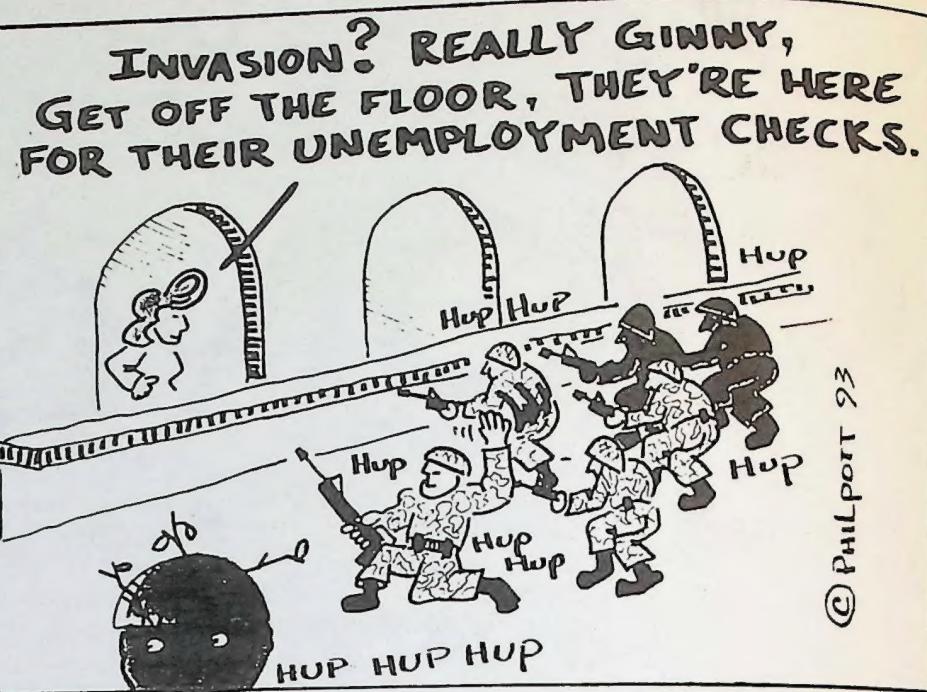
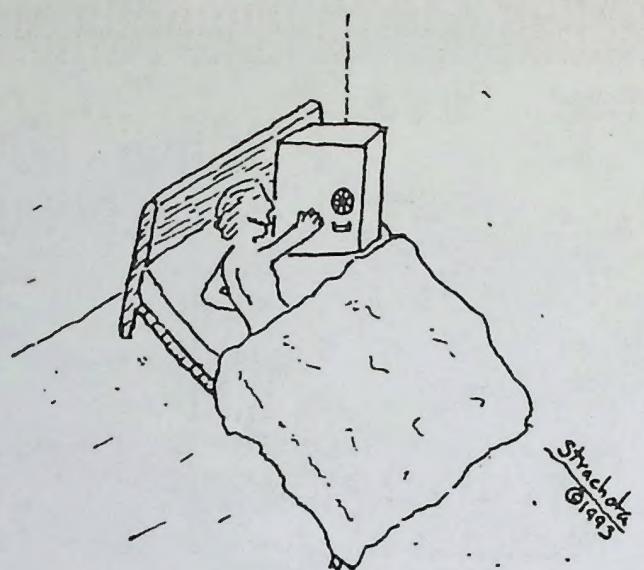
GONE TO GRAVEYARDS, EVERY ONE
LONELINESS OF THE LONG-DISTANCE JOGGER

INSIDE

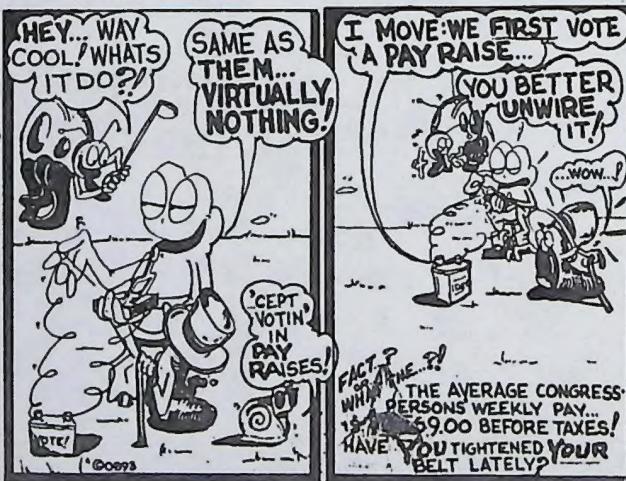
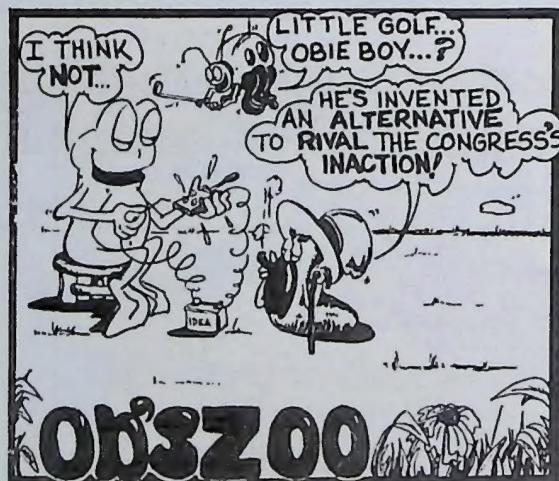
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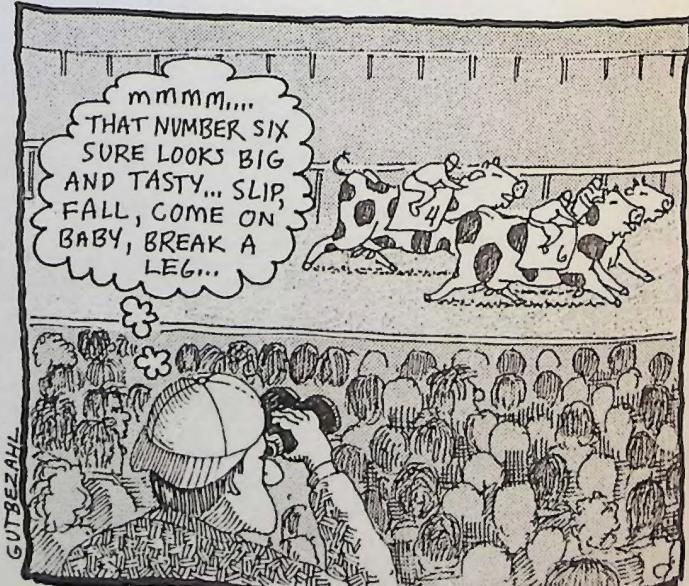


Safe sex



Balloon View

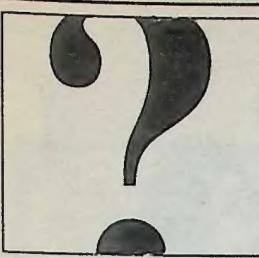
by Paul Phipps



THE BELMONT STEAKS

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Summer is almost here, and if you're like me, you're just itching to sprawl on the beach, absorb trillions of cancerous solar lightwaves, and work on improving that all-important philosophical modality. This little item, for anybody who hasn't taken seven years of philosophy where they read books like *Nietzsche, Schopenhauer and Kant: a Really Lousy Infield*, is a fancy way of saying "big words to obscure the fact that I'm clueless." People say stuff like "philosophical modality" when they can't bear to tell themselves the truth, because the truth hurts, especially when it brings the whips and leather handcuffs.

And (if you're still like me) you'll be wishing somebody else could come up with a decent philosophical modality you can watch on video, so you won't have to use your brain this summer for anything besides saying, "Get me some more lemonade, OK?" Well, you're in luck, because this is philosophical modality day around my house, and I'm gonna let you all use one I'm finished with. I call it "The 9-to-5-Step Approach for Objectively Dealing With Potentially Un-Self-Actualizing Scenarios." This approach is for you, if you're someone who's overburdened by your job and have taken to cooking yourself senseless in the sun so all you can think about is your sunburn. Its simple key words will help you live a better life each hour of each working day. Unless you work at night. Here they are:

9: *Prepare*: Before you set off for your office or factory, take time to study your face in the mirror. Pretend you're using your boss's shaving cream. Or lipstick.

10: *Optionize*: As a vertebrate, you have a right to options. Don't be afraid to run, pass, punt, or fall to the earth underneath several strong men wearing uniforms.

11: *Decide*: Remember, the Chinese character for "crisis" means "unpaid cable bill." It is in your hands to maximize your life. Or ruin it.

12: *Critique*: Never rationalize when you have a chance to completely mislead. State your point succinctly, use eye contact, then break for lunch.

1: *Regenerate*: Remember the effect of body language. The last time the boss used body language with you, he spoke Albanian. Whenever possible, stay awake in meetings; sleep in the bathroom.

2: *Consensusize*: Assertively convince others to agree on something: bee sting remedies, disposal of cat vomit. Form a quality circle with co-workers and hold hands until your palms sweat.

3: *Plot*: Before that meeting you've dreaded all day, imagine your supervisor standing naked in a dusty square in Ulan Bator, surrounded by angry native children demanding Chiclets.

4: *Delay*: It's almost quitting time. Ask when the reception area will be getting more magazines.

5: *Create*: This is your chance to tell your co-workers what you've accomplished. If you've accomplished nothing, explain how you've been sick, though not sick enough to complain, and reveal that your great-aunt—the one who practically raised you and gave you the love your parents weren't capable of—well, she's not expected to make it through surgery, so you've really been preoccupied. Never forget that tomorrow is another day. So was yesterday.

After Hours: *Drink*: You are responsible for your own bar tab, and if you do not drink, co-workers will accuse you of not being a team player. Then when you travel to Cincinnati to represent your company in a major exhibition, they will complain they never know where you are.

Follow this regimen for five days, then after work the fifth day, repeat the following phrase: "Today is the first weekend of the rest of my life." And mean it.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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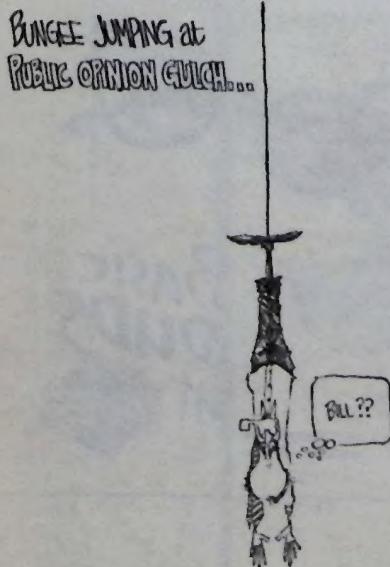
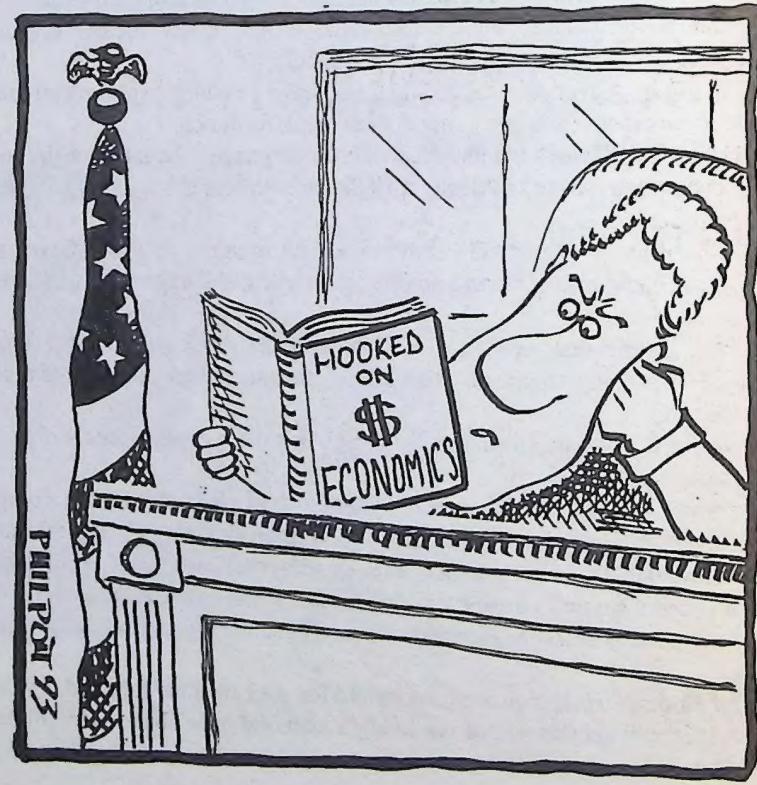
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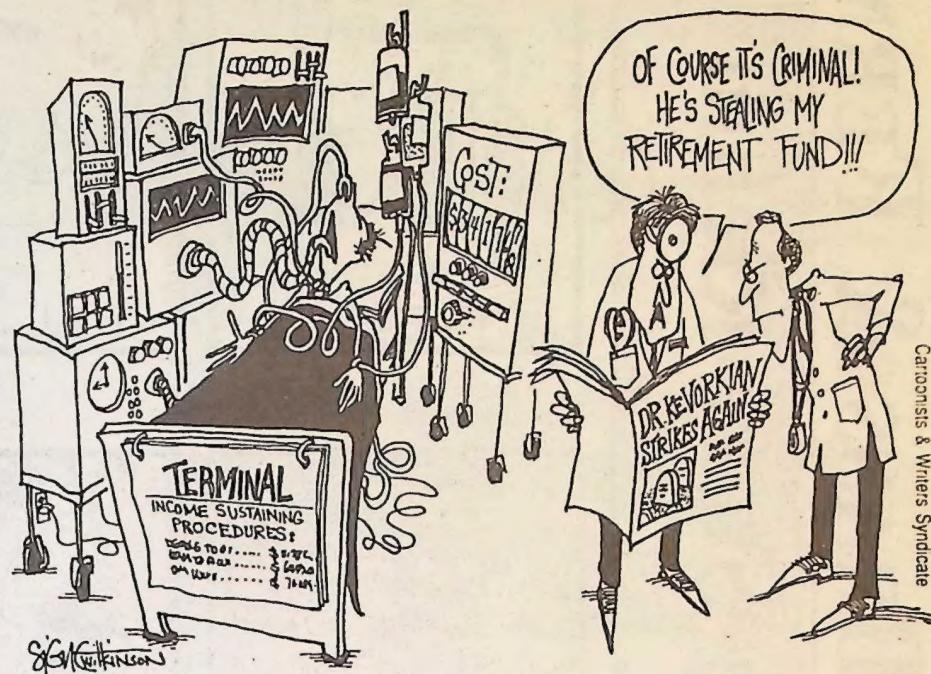
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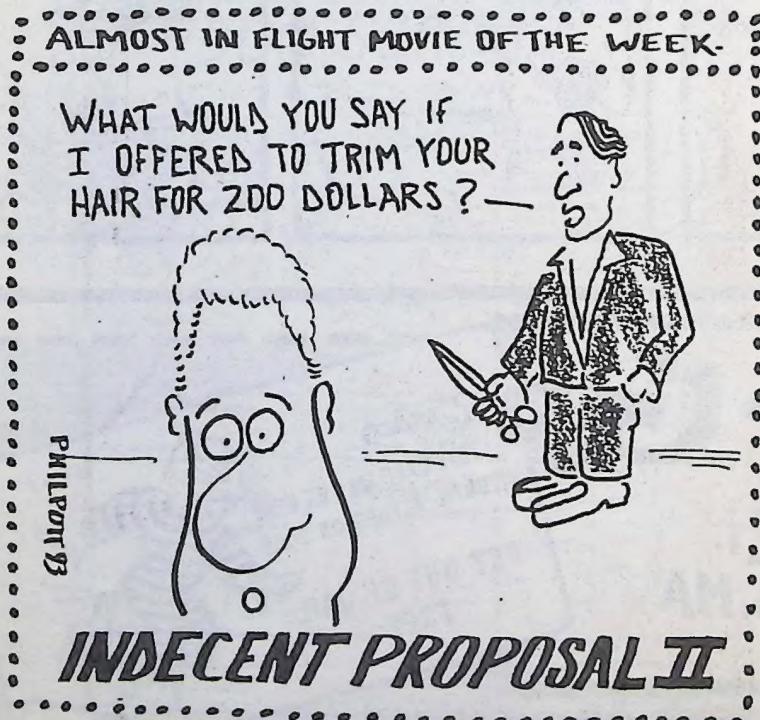
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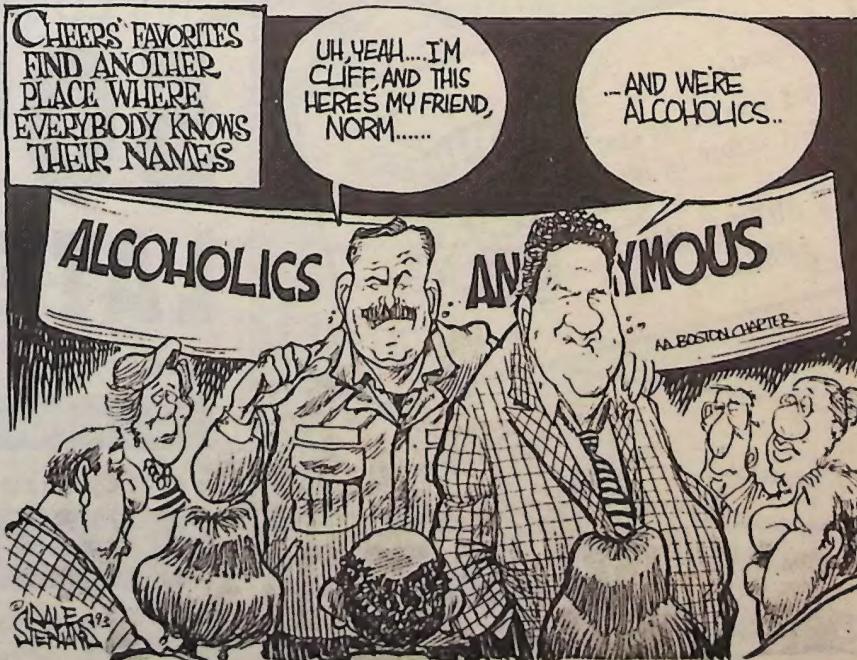
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By Steve Riehm



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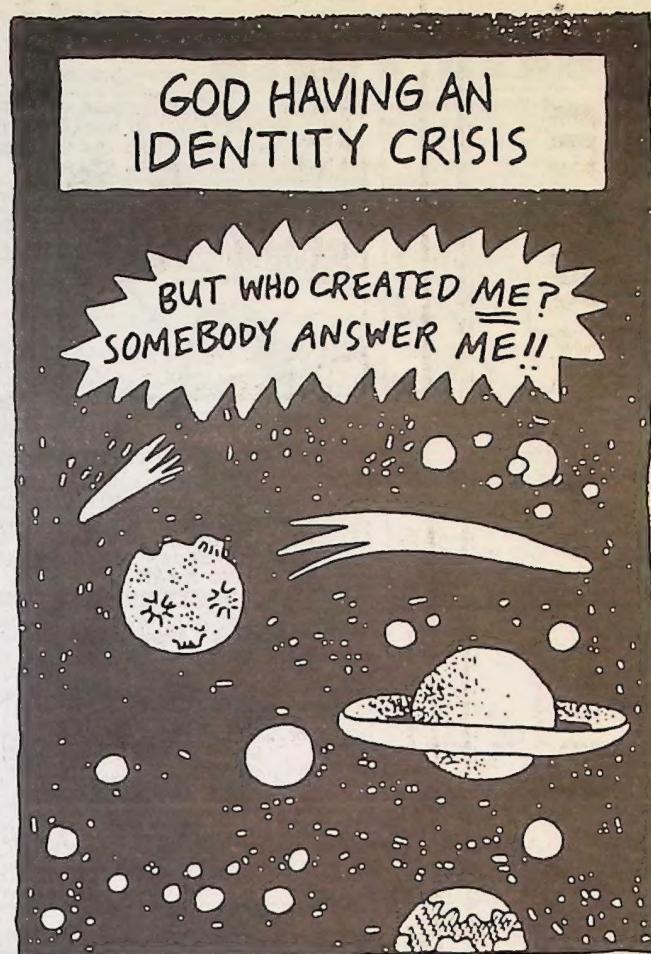
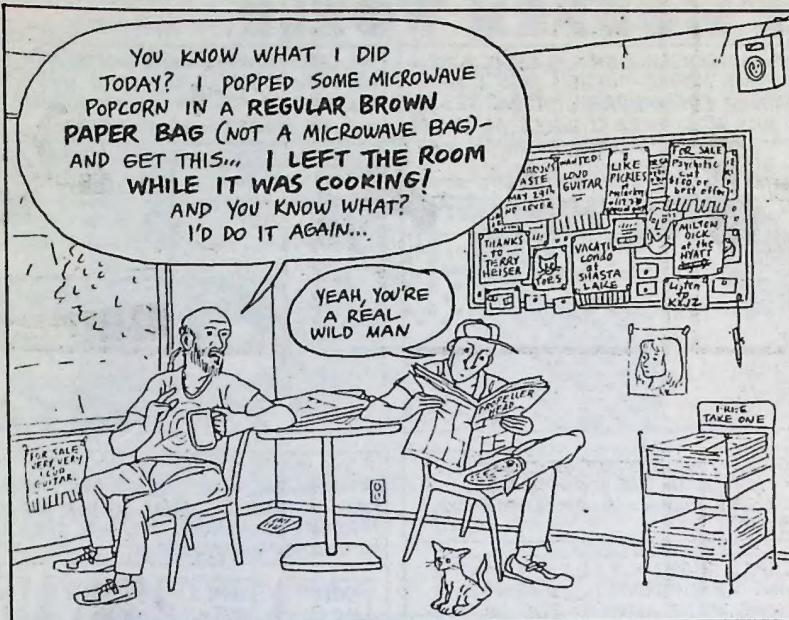


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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

IF YOU EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THE DOWN-TRODDEN... IF YOU HOLD OPINIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THE STATUS QUO... WELL-- WE'VE GOT TWO SIMPLE WORDS TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE...

YOU KNOW-- GIVEN THE RAM-PANT HOMOPHOBIA IN THIS COUNTRY, PERHAPS THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF GAY AMERICANS SHOULD BE LEGALLY GUARANTEED...

OH-- STOP BEING SO "POLITICALLY CORRECT!"



YOU SEE, WE'RE JUST NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER POINTS OF VIEW! WE DON'T CARE! WE'VE GOT OUR OPINIONS-- AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY TROUBLESOME FACTS GET IN THE WAY...

--BUT-- WE HAVE AN ENTIRE UNDERCLASS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE BROUGHT HERE AS SLAVES AND HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY OPPRESSED EVER SINCE--

AAH-- THOSE PEOPLE JUST DON'T WANT TO WORK!



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Snicker-- SHE'S SO "P.C.!"



BUT DON'T YOU TRY TO LABEL US AS INTOLERANT OR BIGOTED... BECAUSE IF YOU DO... WELL, RUSH LIMBAUGH HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT...



"A BIGOT IS SOMEONE WHO--"

--WINS AN ARGUMENT WITH A LIBERAL!"

NYAHH, NYAHH, NYAHH!

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 093

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

This is a great time to be a 12-year-old in Clemmons, North Carolina. The school board just passed a policy to hand out two bucks every time you read a book.

I'm not kidding. Read the book. Collect two dollars. Do not go to jail.

I'm a little upset about it. This is *one more thing* they didn't have when I was in school. They didn't have karate class, and they didn't have the cold-cash-for-reading program. All they ever gave us was a lousy certificate with gold stickers on it. And you had to read *ten* books before you even got *that*.

I could have worked this scam so smoothly I'd still be living off the profits today. First of all, you always start with *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the book that nobody would ever read except that it's the shortest book ever written that impresses teachers. Next, you find one of those rinky-dink branch libraries that stocks a full supply of Cliff's Notes. On a good day, you could rack up forty bucks, *even if you had to write a book report on every book*.

Third, you can always find at least one teacher who believes the Hardy Boys books are educational. And if that doesn't work, you can read obscure sports books with strange titles that are just *barely* impressive enough to make the teacher think there's something valuable inside. A title like *Baseball and America's Cultural Heritage*. Just make sure you don't have the book in your possession when the teacher asks about it. "Oh, I already took it back to the library." That way they'll never find out it was full of pictures of Ty Cobb and Satchel Paige.

And then, once you did this for about, oh, six months, you'd be ready for the true big leagues — writing book reports on books that *don't even exist*. You just make up a title, like *Grover Cleveland: Man of Destiny*, and then you read a two-page article on Grover Cleveland in the World Book, and then you put *just enough* specific information in the book report to make the teacher aware that you read *something*, even if they can't be sure just what it was. Pick the author's names out of the

phone book. The ones you'd make up, like "James Smith," are too obvious. Find names like "Lazarus P. Stickney."

They'll fall for this every time. And you know why? Because they don't believe a kid that young can think this stuff up.

Anyhow, I lost my big chance, because they didn't start doing this until a couple weeks ago in Clemmons, North Carolina. The idea the school board had is that "at risk" children should be encouraged to read books, because it will keep them out of trouble. When the cash-payment plan was first proposed, they had a brutal fight, breaking down along class lines. The wealthier, mostly white parents thought it was the most idiotic thing they'd ever heard of. The black parents — and the black school board members — were mostly for it. And the debate reached its highest point one night when a woman was saying, "Maybe if we just tried to teach the kids about books in such a way that they would want to read them...."

And she was interrupted by a

school board member who burst out, "These kids don't want books! These kids want money!"

And that settled it. The school board voted for money.

And then there was this long post-mortem where people went around shaking their heads, saying things like, "Well, we live in different times. Kids are different today than when we were growing up."

No they're not.

I wanted money, too.

• • •

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. How fast can good paddlers move their canoes?
A. About 7 mph.

The Greek philosopher Epicurus calculated the sun was approximately two feet in diameter.

If you think top executives of major corporations tend to remain confidently on course, consider the fact that the Ford Motor Company has changed its logo more than 25 times since World War II.

When Sigmund Freud first bought it for "therapeutic" use, cocaine was selling for \$1.27 a gram.

The four-pronged fork has been a standard utensil for only about a hundred years.

Q. Where'd we get the expression "to bone up" on something?

A. From West African shamans, brought to this country as slaves. They rolled bones on the ground, then read the future from their patterns.

Levi Strauss first called jeans "waist overalls."

Bertrand Russell commented, "It's healthy now and then to hang a question mark on things you've long taken for granted."

It takes about 110 silkworm cocoons for enough silk to make a necktie.

"Hide and Seek" is not so much a learned game as a game of nature, evidently. Otters play it. So do young deer and cats. Incidentally, how you say it depends on where you grew up. Many people call it "Hide and Go Seek."

A shark can hear the heartbeats of other fish.

A reliable source reports that the red aircraft beacon atop the Capitol Records building in Hollywood blinks the word "Hollywood" in Morse code.

Q. Do two hurricanes ever collide?

A. No. One gets weaker, and they rotate past each other.

Thought for the day: Don't drive as if you owned the road. Drive as if you owned the car.

The writer Helen Rowland critiqued the human male's kissing performance thusly: "A man snatches the first kiss, pleads for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth — and endures all the rest."

On average your skeleton is its most massive at age 35.

You know those plants that trap insects? What they crave is nitrogen. They usually grow in soil where heavy rains or standing water leach out all the nitrogen.

Divorced men over 50, if they remarry, tend to match up with women who on average are four years younger. Only one in 25 marries a woman 20 years younger.

Duke Ellington's final tribute to Louis Armstrong went: "He was born poor. He died rich. And he never hurt anybody along the way."

Freud said cats are sex symbols.

Scarecrows in Sri Lanka wear sarongs.

An unemployment rate of 80 percent sounds catastrophic, but that's normal in Actors' Equity.

Frederick the Great (king of Prussia in the 18th century) required his coffee to be made as follows: Steep it in champagne, then add a dollop of mustard.

Robert Frost said, "Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length."

Those Americans who kill themselves on purpose outnumber those who kill other people on purpose.

Wildlife researchers report that leopards like to drink daily, but can go for as long as a month without water.

Q. Were there any signers of The Declaration of Independence who ever saw a railroad train?

A. Just one. Charles Carroll, who died at age 95 in 1832.

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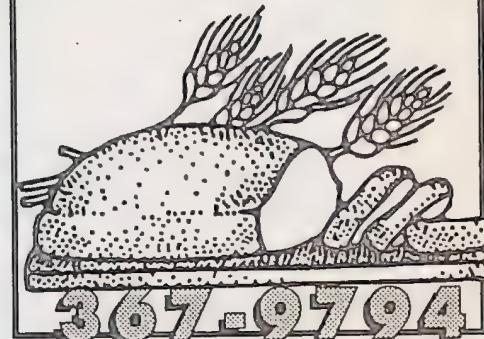
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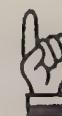
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Vertex: Selectrocution Baystate Hotel: PEACEBOMB Dave's Other Place: Art Steele Blues Band City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Pearl Street: Shockra, Savoy Truffle Alley Oops: DJ Bobby C—all requests Charlemont Inn: open mic Green River Cafe: Mega dance party, w/ DJ Devlyn

Dave's Other Place: Scott Sasanecki City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Huke Lau/Comedy Connection: Polynesian Show Hotel Northampton: Jac Veronesi, Montenia Jazz Trio Pearl Street: New York Centerfolds, Tattoo Jungle Iron Horse: Greg Brown, Bill Morrissey Baystate Hotel: Wildcat O'Halloran Blues Band Green River Cafe: Beth Jochum & Brenda Fisher, w/ Jude Klucitas Charlemont Inn: Ruby

Vertex: Selectrocution Baystate Hotel: Curious Ritual, special guests Green River Cafe: Ragtime Bill Busted Hotel Northampton: Hal Benoit, Dave Brunelle Iron Horse: Brooks Williams Pearl Street: Texas Flood (Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute) Huke Lau/ Comedy Connection: Dennis Wolfberg Charlemont Inn: Equalites City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Dave's Other Place: Tom McClung & his baby grand Northampton Center for the Arts: Hot Food Hot Jazz Festival @ Northampton airport

Iron Horse: Sharon Shannon Green River Cafe: Temple of the Moon dance troupe Vertex: Draw Back, Delusion Pearl Street: J.J. Cale, Loudon Wainright III

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Michelle Shocked



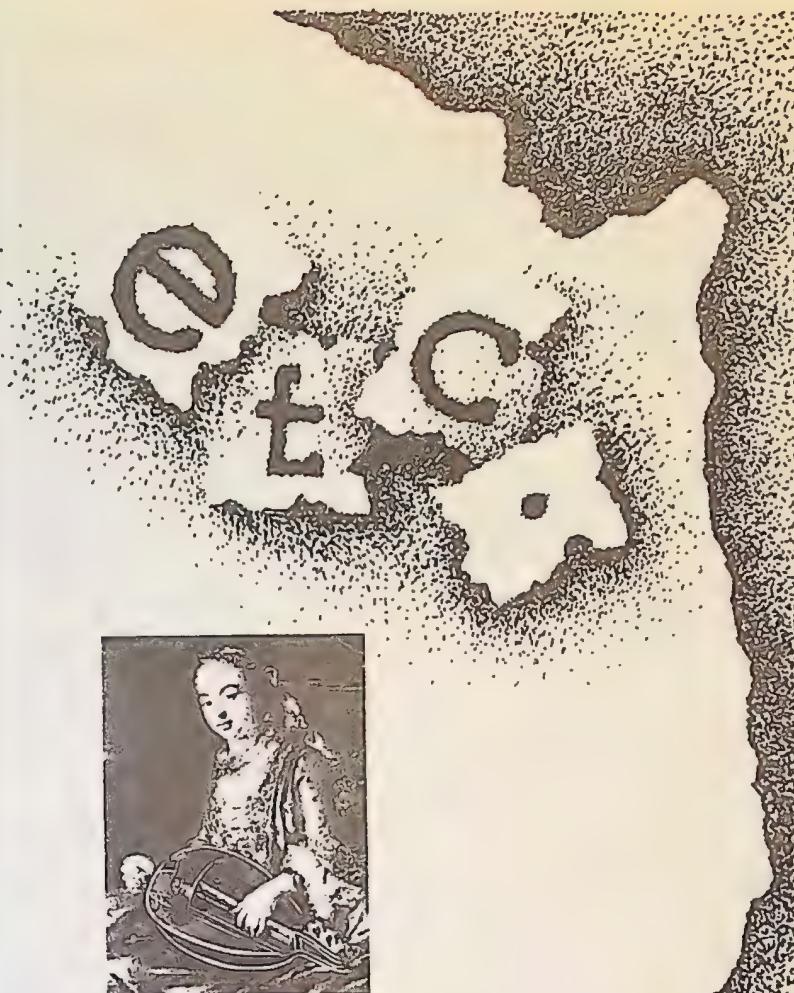
Iron Horse: Michelle Shocked

Vertex: Reggae — New Horizon Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — Gutters, Pelorius Jack, Petty



Amy Tan, novelist and Remainderette, at Pearl Street

Tobey photo



THU
TEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Glen Velez w/ Steve Gorn, Randy Crafton & Howard Levy **Alley Oops:** All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Chuck Morris & The Sidewalk Blues Band **Charlemont Inn:** open mic **Baystate Hotel:** New Radiant Storm King, Cudgel **Green River Cafe:** Marcello Blanco and Russ Cobe

FRI
ELEVEN

Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — The Bend, Fergus & The Blackbirds **Dave's Other Place:** Café Society **Green River Cafe:** Cindy Kallet **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Vertex:** Philthy Lucre **Iron Horse:** Luther Guitar Jr. **Johnson Hotel Northampton:** Mark Maulucci, Jac Veronesi **Charlemont Inn:** Riverfront Jump **Pearl Street:** Wind (Grateful Dead tribute)

SAT
TWELVE

City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music **Iron Horse:** The Nields, Between The Lines **Green River Cafe:** Jim Henry **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Dave's Other Place:** Spyder Murphy Quartet **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Maulucci, Dave Brunelle **Pearl Street:** The Pursuit of Happiness **Charlemont Inn:** Working Stiffs

SUN
THIRTEEN

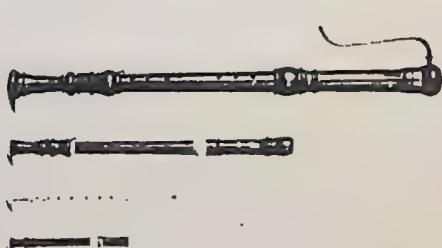
Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Green River Cafe:** Michael Nix **Pearl Street:** Clannad

MON
FOURTEEN

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights **Pearl Street:** 4 Non Blondes, Love Minus Zero

TUE
FIFTEEN

Iron Horse: Kate & Anna McGarrigle



WED
SIXTEEN

Iron Horse: Tuck & Patti **Porter-Phelps-Huntington House:** Wednesday Folk Traditions — Mili Bermejo, Dan Greenspan, Mick Goodrick

IRON HORSE

FRI 4+

GREG BROWN and
BILL MORRISSEY

SAT 5+

BROOKS WILLIAMS

SUN 6+

SHARON SHANNON

MON 7 & TUE 8

MICHELLE SHOCKED

THU 10+ *Master Hand Drummer*

GLEN VELEZ w/ STEVE GORN, RANDY CRAFTON & HOWARD LEVY

FRI 11+

LUTHER GUITAR JR. JOHNSON

SAT 12+ 7 PM

THE NIELDS
plus BETWEEN THE LINES

TUE 15+

KATE & ANNA McGARRIGLE

WED 16 7 & 10PM

TUCK & PATTI

THU 17

FREEDY JOHNSTON

FRI 18

JOE KEENAN

SAT 19+

KNOTS & CROSSES

SUN 20

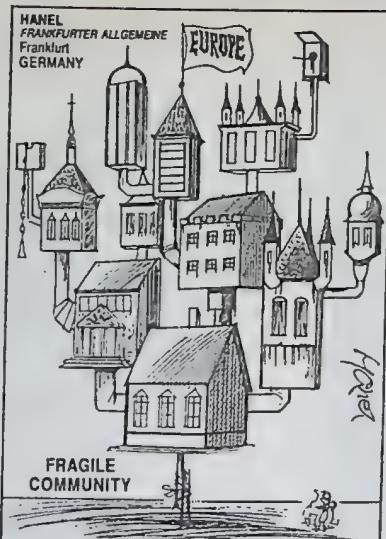
MICHELLE MALONE

20 CENTER STREET
NORTHAMPTON

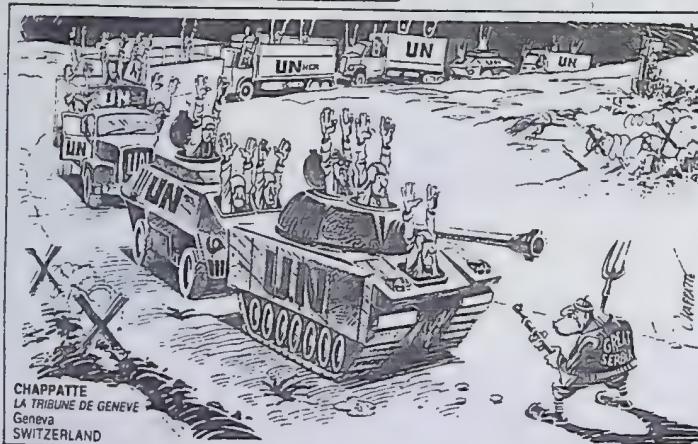
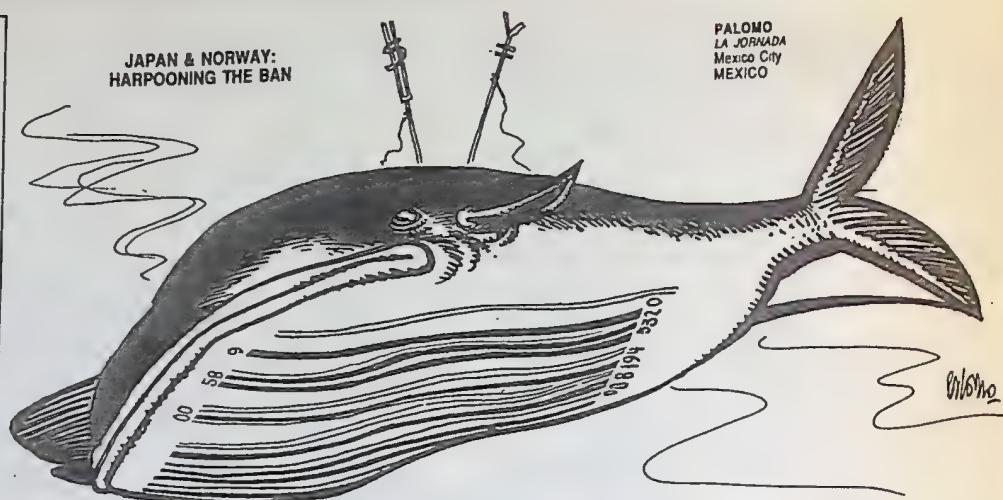
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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



JAPAN & NORWAY:
HARPOONING THE BAN



THESE ARE REAL DREAMS. WE DIDN'T MAKE THEM UP. DreamWorldNews

MAGNETS REPLACE ROOSTERS

Cockfighting enthusiasts, bowing to pressure from animal rights advocates, are replacing their roosters with giant magnets.

In the new sport, the players pit their magnets against each other in a dirt ring. The largest, most powerful magnet wins.

The players, mostly immigrants

from Latin America and the Caribbean, lavish as much attention on their magnets as they formerly did on their roosters. The most popular magnets are variations on the traditional horseshoe shape. Others are actually shaped like roosters and measure two to three feet in height.

Some players have customized their magnets by welding on ornamental pieces of brightly colored metal and building special carrying cases.

Dogs feared missing in famine escape bid

Ten dogs were spotted last night clinging to a hot-air balloon high above Somalia. Sources say the dogs were attempting to escape famine in that country.

The dogs' balloon scheme was abetted by foreign aid workers who helped the crafty canines smuggle rubber and rope into the Mogadishu famine camp.

The dogs are reportedly low on supplies. "They took only two bags



of chow," said a dog found loitering after curfew in Mogadishu's deserted streets. "I fear for their souls."

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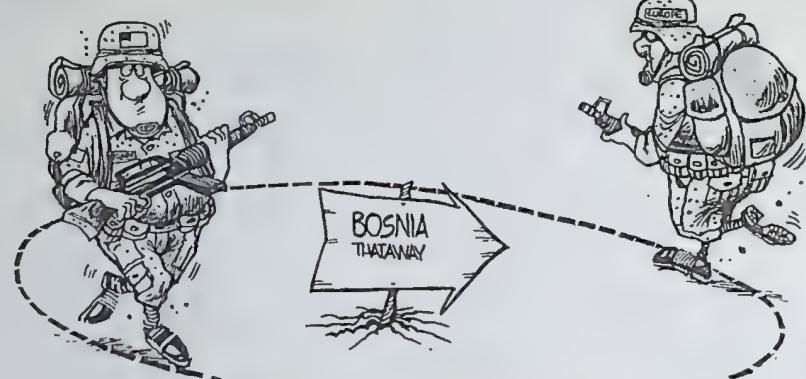
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To GRAVEYARDS, EVERY ONE

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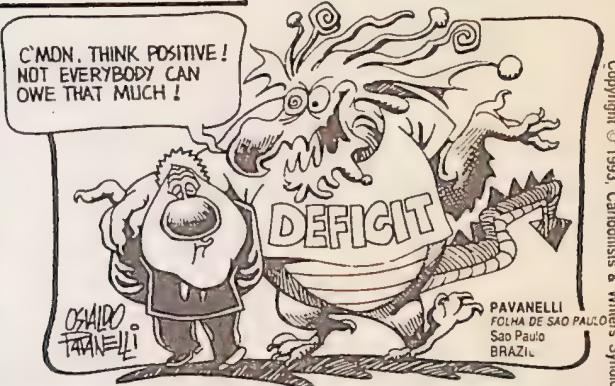
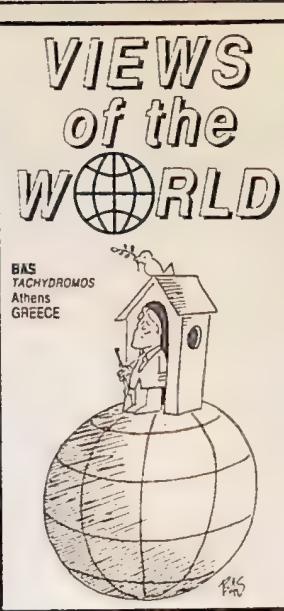
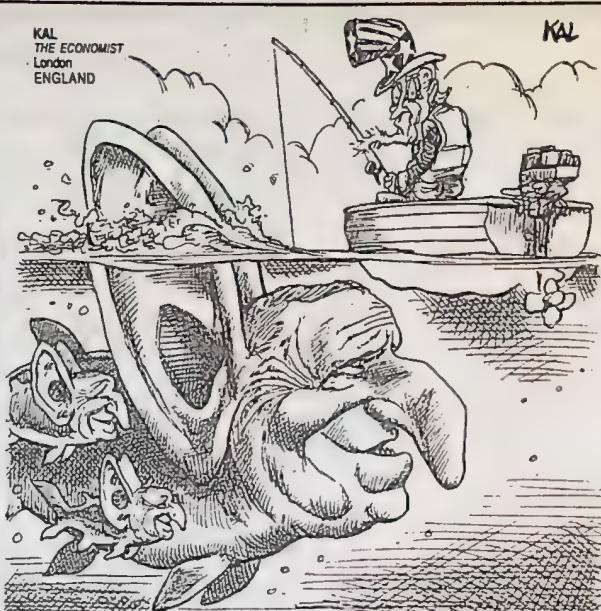


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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

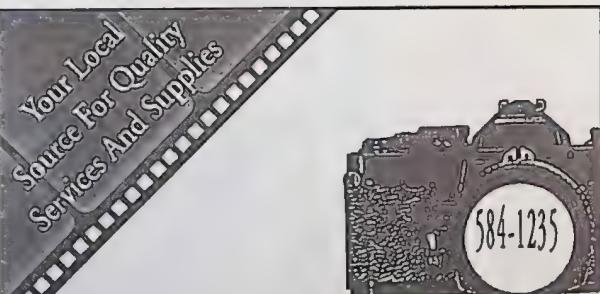
How about a video store that carries as many foreign and hard-to-find titles as Hollywood films?

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25 CENTRAL

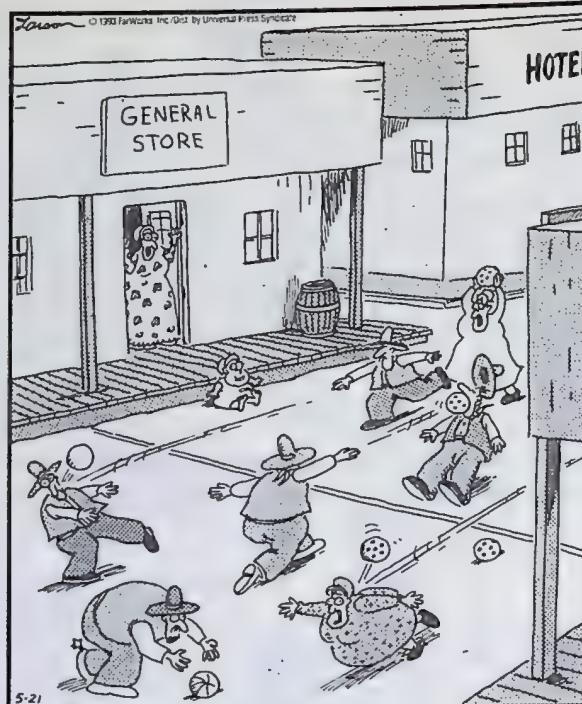
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THE FAR SIDE

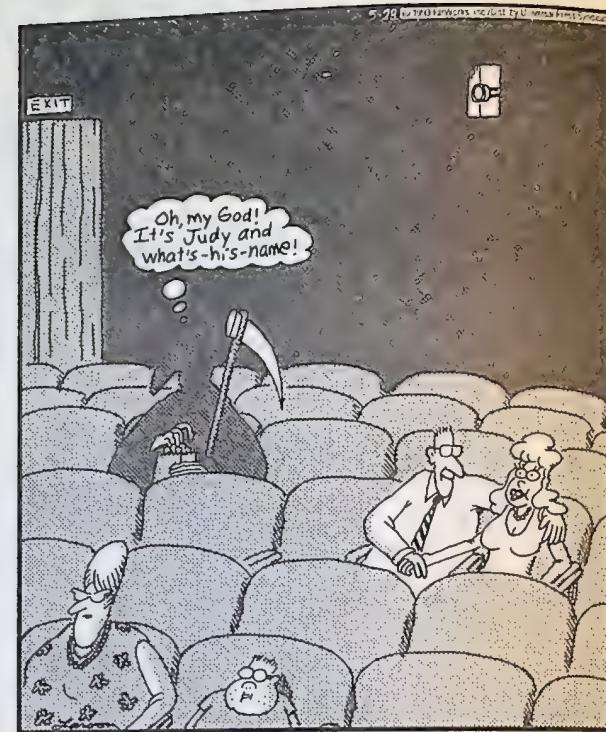
BY GARY LARSON



"Oh, boy, was *that* an ugly day. ... Roy instantly took the bird in to be debeaked, all the way yelling, 'Tit for tat! Tit for tat!'"



It was a tough frontier town; but later, after the arrival of the Earp brothers, things calmed down, and the town's name was shortened to simply Dodge City.



As his eyes grew accustomed to the dark, Death suddenly noticed his girlfriend sitting with Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

SOLID TEST PREP

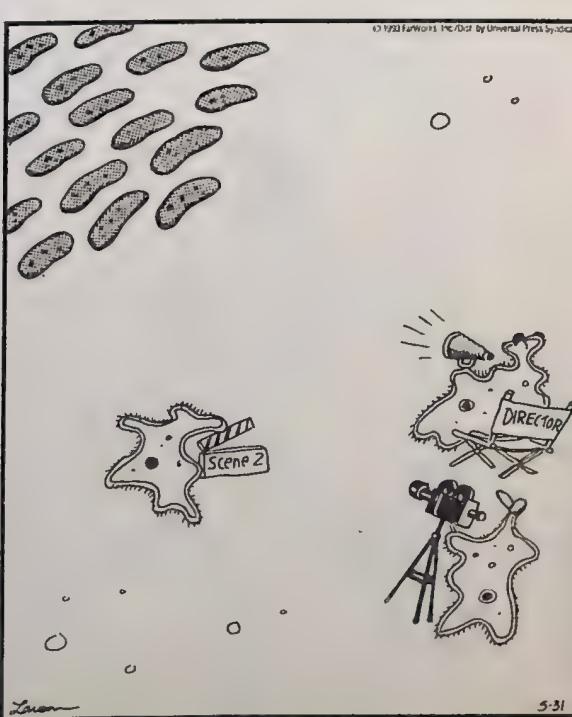
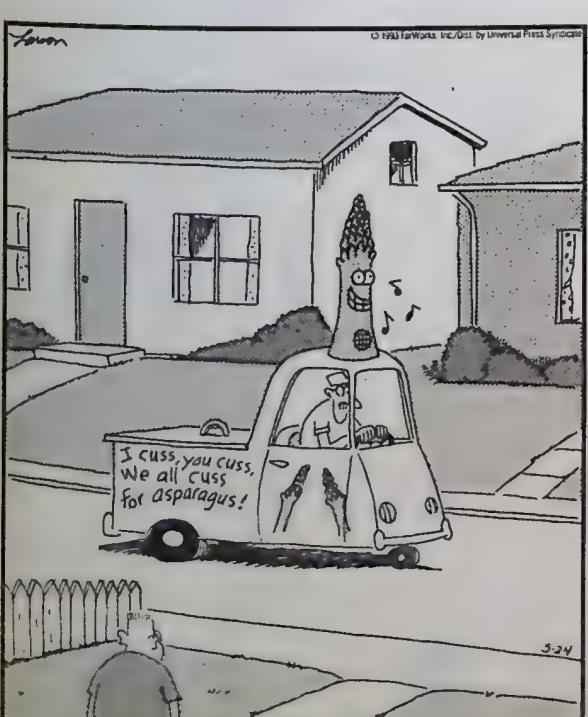
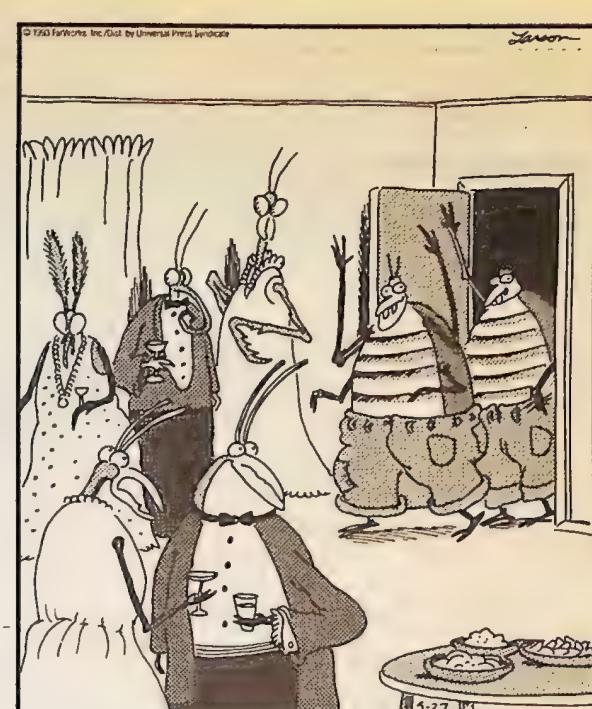
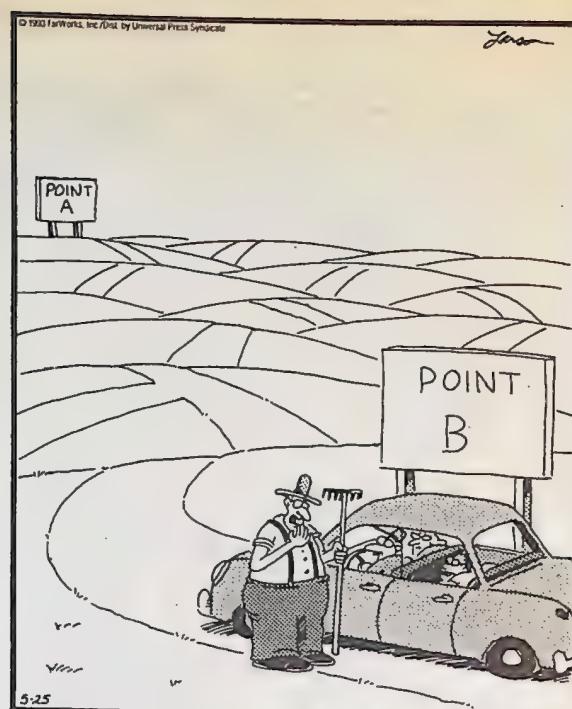


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- GMAT

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for substance. Skills
rather than tricks.
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than experiments.

549-5780 KAPLAN RULES



Leold
by Roger&Salem Salloom

I carefully read the labels
in the supermarket.

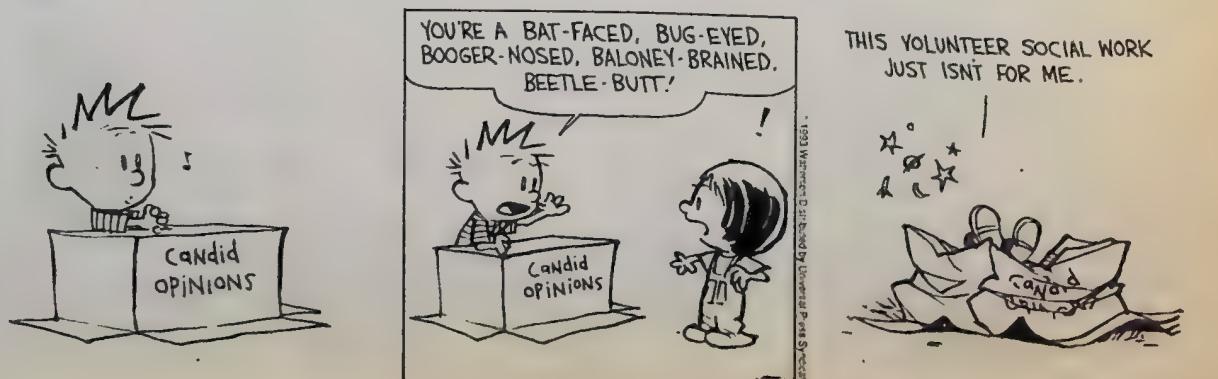
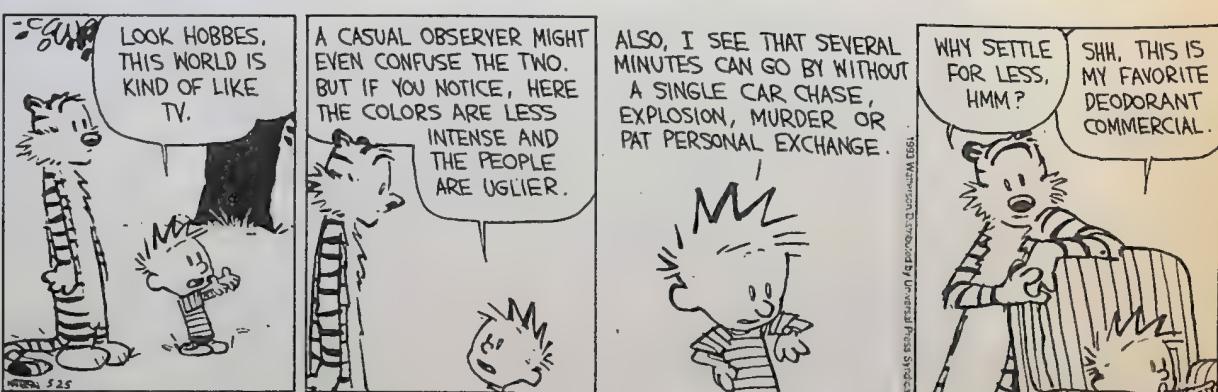
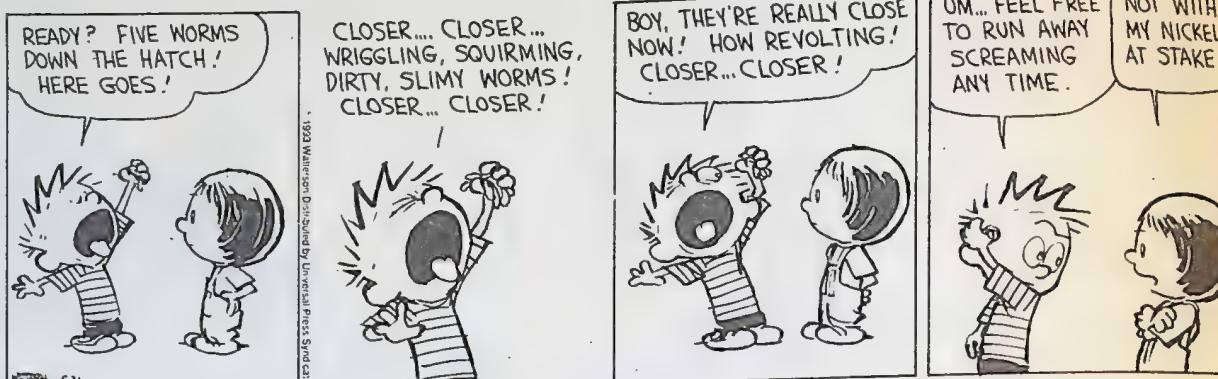
I try to eat lots of food with
plenty of preservatives.

If the preservatives keep
food fresher, why won't they keep
me fresher....

I'll live longer.....
I won't need deodorant.
Life is good.

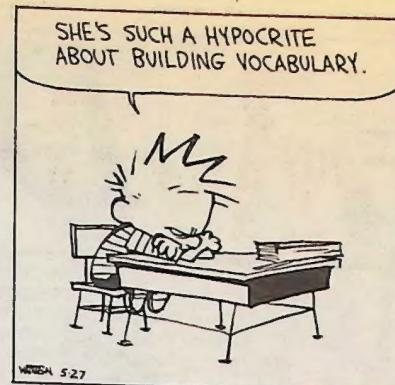


calvin and Hobbes
by BILL WATTERSON





EACH CARD HAS A LETTER FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DASHES. WHEN I SHOW THE CARD, YOU YELL THE VULGAR, OBSCENE OR BLASPHEMIOUS WORD THEY STAND FOR! ... READY?

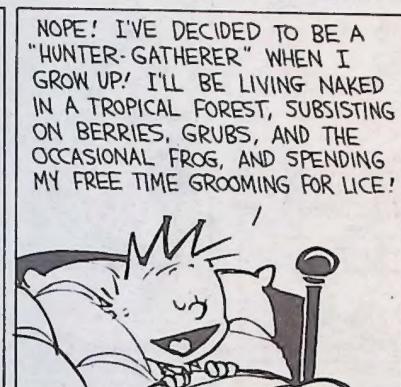


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5.27 WATTERSON



OH?



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MISS WORMWOOD, I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MATH LESSON.

YES?

GIVEN THAT, SOONER OR LATER, WE'RE ALL JUST GOING TO DIE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF LEARNING ABOUT INTEGERS?

TURN TO PAGE 83, CLASS.

NOBODY LIKES US "BIG PICTURE" PEOPLE.

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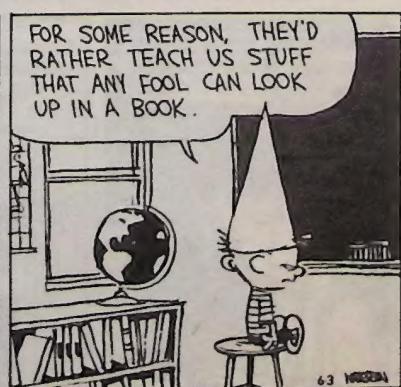
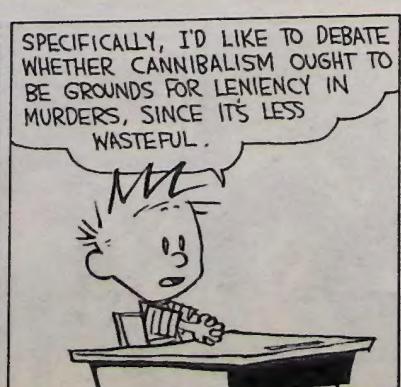
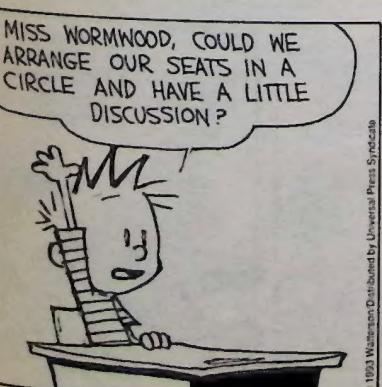
EVENTUALLY, WE'RE EACH GOING TO DIE, OUR SPECIES WILL GO EXTINCT, THE SUN WILL EXPLODE, AND THE UNIVERSE WILL COLLAPSE.

EXISTENCE IS NOT ONLY TEMPORARY, IT'S POINTLESS! WE'RE ALL DOOMED, AND WORSE, NOTHING MATTERS!

I SEE WHY PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE.

WELL, IT PUTS A BAD DAY IN PERSPECTIVE.

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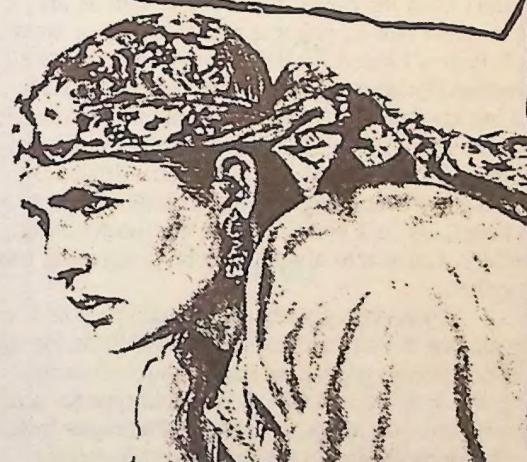


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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

We recently spoke with Marvin "Buzz" Gardens, America's First Fly, the winged insect that whirs around the White House. His ancestors have been at the President's home since the Gerald Ford administration. The previous First Fly's family was exterminated during the Great Fumigation that fogged the White House following Richard Nixon's departure.

The fly's on-the-wall perspective of Clintonian democracy is many-sided. He maintains President Clinton's biggest mistake was believing THEAMERICANPEOPLE want change enough to actually change. As it turns out, we wanted instantaneous change that affected everyone but ourselves. Told we'd be willing to sacrifice some personal privilege for the common good, Billy C. bought that, too. What a lie! This country is Pinocchio and the national debt is our nose after 220 years of independence. "Cut the defense budget, Prez," we panted. "Just don't close any bases around here." "Pass an energy tax, Congresspod," we pontificated. "Only, remember to exempt the one I make my living in." "Let gay and lesbians into the military, General," we snickered. "Of course, they'll have to keep their clothes on until they're discharged."

Marv puts his many fingers on the heart of the problem facing President Bill when he points out that humans have no patience and are unable to take the long view of any problem. Andy Warhol's prediction of a universal 15 minute opportunity for fame has now shrunk to fit the average adult attention span: 15 seconds. This 15 seconds is immediately followed by a pundit's analysis, a TV mini-series, a revisionist history, and a Perot infomercial.

From where he clings, Mr. Garden believes Clinton suffers from the public's labeling of him as the Anti-Reagan. Remember how Ronny was roasted for doing nothing himself? Bill is now blasted for doing everything himself. Reagan was chastised for always going on vacation, Clinton is berated for not taking any time off. The Great Communicator's staff was too old, Bubba's is too young. The Californian was scoffed at for knowing nothing about anything. The Arkansan is berated for knowing too much about everything. The only common ground for the critics is First Lady land. Nancy Reagan was too domineering and so is Hillary. Leave it to a woman to bring opposing bands of men together.

Marvin suggested we help ourselves and our President by altering the way we respond to innovation. He suggests first understanding our personal relationship with change. The following will help you do that. It is a prototype for a new form of journalism-- the interactive column. Participate by following the instructions. Please do not read this while driving.

INTERACTIVE MODULE ONE: Cross your arms in front of your body. Notice which arm is on top. Now, reverse arms so the other is on top. A bit uncomfortable, isn't it? Human beings are creatures of habit, very content doing things as they always have done. We resist the most trivial disruption to our comfort zone. If it feels even the slightest bit discomforting, we resist changing it.

INTERACTIVE MODULE TWO: Relax, take a couple of deep breaths, and picture yourself arriving home at the end of a typical day. Where do you park? In the same spot as the day before? What's the first thing you do upon entering your residence? A) Take your shoes off. B) Pet the dog. C) Answer the machine. D) _____. What's the second thing? Third? Fourth? Have you ever noticed how ingrained the routine of returning home is? We've choreographed an unconscious domestic dance for ourselves, so sure of the steps we could waltz it with our eyes closed.

INTERACTIVE MODULE THREE: Next time you're in the supermarket, initiate your shopping in an aisle at the opposite end of the store from where you usually start. Then, go up the aisles you usually go down and vice versa. Note whether your body is comfortable doing this. Observe whether your internal compass isn't trying to get you back onto your usual path.

INTERACTIVE MODULE FOUR: Choose one of the habits in your life and change some action connected with it.

INTERACTIVE MODULE FIVE: Phone the White House and tell Billary you're sorry.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

IT'S AN INTERESTING CONGREGATION, MIKE. MEMBERS ARE FAR MORE CONSUMER CONSCIOUS THAN THEY USED TO BE.

THE CHURCH HAS TO DELIVER FOR ITS MEMBERS! COUNSELING, SOCIAL EVENTS, RECOVERY PROGRAMS, TUTORING, FITNESS CENTER--WE HAVE TO OFFER IT ALL!

WHERE'S GOD FIT INTO ALL THIS?

GOD? WELL, GOD'S STILL THE DRAW FOR SURE. HE'S GOT THE BIG NAME.

BUT DO YOU EVER EVOKE IT ANYMORE?

UM...FRANKLY, MIKE, GOD COMES WITH A LOT OF BAGGAGE, THE WHOLE MALE, EURO-CENTRIC GUILT THING.

HELLO? THE WEST COAST CONTINGENT HAS ARRIVED!

ZONKER! IN THE KITCHEN!

HEY, DUDE! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THE PLACE LOOKS DIFFERENT.

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN? IT'S A CHURCH NOW. "THE LITTLE CHURCH OF WALDEN."

A CHURCH? WELL, I GUESS THAT'S APPROPRIATE.

HOW SO, BIG GUY?

I HAD MY FIRST TRULY RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE RIGHT UP-STA

NO KIDDING? WHERE WAS I? WE USUALLY SENT YOU TO THE STORE.

ANY CLASSMATES IN PARTICULAR YOU'RE HOPING TO CATCH UP WITH THIS WEEKEND, MIKE?

IT'S THAT OBVIOUS, IS IT?

I GUESS IT'S NO BIG SECRET THAT NICHOLE CAME ON TO ME AT THE LAST REUNION. I HAD SOMETHING OF A CRISIS OF THE SOUL.

EVER SINCE THEN, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET HER OUT OF MY MIND. IN FACT, FOR FIVE YEARS, I'VE HAD THIS PRETTY SERIOUS FANTASY...

PLEASE DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO SHARE IT WITH ME, MIKE.

NO, NO, I DON'T MIND. REALLY.

IT'S CRAZY, REV! I KNOW I'M LUCKY TO HAVE J.J., BUT EVERY TIME I THINK OF NICHOLE, I KEEP FANTASIZING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN...

NICHOLE REALLY GOT TO ME AT THE LAST REUNION. SHE WAS SO AVAILABLE AND SEXY AND...

UM... YES?

HOW ARE YOU, STRANGER? I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!

NICHOLE, DID I JUST HEAR A BUBBLE BURST?

NICHOLE?

BOY, DOES THAT EXPRESSION SAY IT ALL...

WHAT?

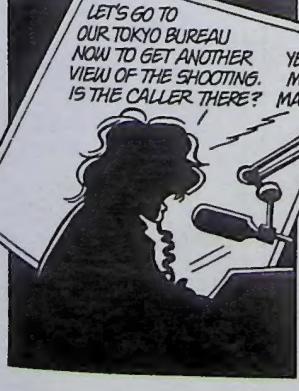
LET ME SEE IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS YOU'VE BEEN FANTASIZING ABOUT PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

UH... NO, I...

BUT IN THE MEAN- TIME, I'VE CHANGED A BIT, AND NOW THAT YOU SEE ME, YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, RIGHT?

UH... NO! NOT AT ALL!

WELL, ENOUGH ABOUT MY WEIGHT. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LOSING YOUR HAIR?



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